

JOPLIN

MAPLE LEAF RAG FOR THE PIANO

EDITED BY MAURICE HINSON



AN ALFRED MASTERWORK EDITION





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About the Composer

Scott Joplin was born in Texarkana, Texas, on November 24, 1868, and died in New York City on April 1, 1917. He was the leading figure in ragtime and a man very much in tune with the times. He is widely considered to be the best of all ragtime composers—the most professional, original

and serious composer of this genre. His music is finally receiving its proper acclaim in American literature. The works of Joplin include 53 pieces for piano, 10 songs, and the opera *Treemonisha*.

About the Music

This was Joplin's second published rag, and it swept the country in 1899 as a nationwide hit. It remains the most famous of all rags. John Stark, the publisher, purchased "Maple Leaf Rag" for fifty dollars with an arrangement for continuing royalty to Joplin. This early rag contains strong rhythmic

elements built from reiterated syncopations, plus lilting tunes developed from the cakewalk. Its four themes (ABACD; each letter represents a 16-measure section) must ripple out over the striding bass. This rag indicated the direction Joplin would take: the opening theme captured the ear and imagination; then each succeeding theme formed an episode in the musical story. The final theme had the last word, or wrapped up the story. In April 1916 Joplin recorded several rolls for the Connorized label, and this smooth performance showed that Joplin made a few additions (for example, extra fill-in octaves in the left hand) on the repeated sections. This edition shows those additions in cue-size notes. Joplin also played measures 17–24, 49–58 and 65–80 one octave higher on the repeat. Composer Charles Griffes had much respect for this rag and played it often at private gatherings.

Source: First edition, John Stark & Co., Sedalia, 1899.



Second Edition

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Cover art: *Detail of Manhattan Rhythms, c. 1915*
by Leon Kroll (1881–1974)
Oil on Canvas, 48 1/4" x 36 1/4"
Private collection courtesy of
Gerald Peters Gallery, New York

Maple Leaf Rag

(1899)

Scott Joplin

(1868–1917)

Tempo di marcia (♩ = ca. 88)

The musical score for the first 13 measures of "Maple Leaf Rag" is presented in piano format. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is marked "Tempo di marcia" with a quarter note equal to approximately 88 beats per minute.

- Measures 1-4:** The right hand (RH) features a melodic line with eighth-note patterns, including a repeat sign with a first ending. The left hand (LH) provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present in measure 2. A circled 'a' is located below the LH staff in measure 4.
- Measures 5-8:** Measure 5 is marked with a box containing the number 5. The RH continues with eighth-note patterns, and the LH has a more active line. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) appears in measure 6. Labels "RH" and "LH" are used to identify the hands in measures 7 and 8.
- Measures 9-12:** Measure 9 is marked with a box containing the number 9. The RH features a triplet of eighth notes in measure 10. A dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) is present in measure 9. The LH continues with a steady accompaniment.
- Measures 13:** Measure 13 is marked with a box containing the number 13. It includes first and second endings for the RH, both marked with a box containing the number 1. The LH continues with chords.

Ⓐ All cue-sized notes in this piece are the embellishments Joplin played on repeats in his piano roll of this rag.

18

f stacc.

23

28

33

1. 2.

f

38

p RH RH
LH LH

43

mf

48

Trio

(f)

53

3

58

63

1. 2.

68

(f)

2 1

1 4

4

(b)

72

(b)

3

2 1

75

3

4

2

5

79

4

4 2

4 1

5 2

3 1

3 1

82

5 1

1.

2.

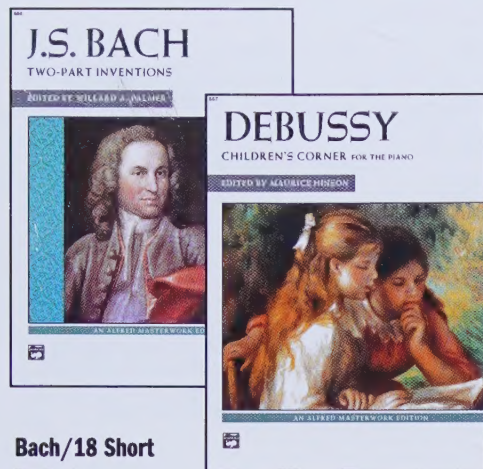
1.

2.

(b) Play cue-sized notes on repeat only.

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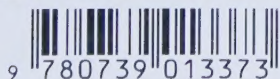
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